

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 147101  
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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 147101

NODIS

FOR PETER TARNOFF FROM FRANK WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, FR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GISCARD D'ESTAING  
AND PRESIDENT CARTER

1. YOU SHOULD BRING TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION BEFORE  
HIS MEETING WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT THE FOLLOWING EX-  
CHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GISCARD AND PRESIDENT CARTER.  
THE LETTER FROM GISCARD WAS DATED JUNE 14 BUT WAS NOT  
RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT UNTIL JUNE 22. THE PRESIDENT'S  
REPLY WAS DATED JUNE 23.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GISCARD'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT  
CARTER, DATED JUNE 14:

"MR. PRESIDENT:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 147101

"I HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF  
THE NUCLEAR EXPERTS MEETING THAT, IN ACCORD WITH THE DECI-  
SIONS WE TOOK IN LONDON, TOOK PLACE JUNE 8-9 IN PARIS.

"IT SEEMS THAT A MISUNDERSTANDING OCCURRED WITH REGARD TO  
THE OBJECTIVES OF THAT MEETING.

"THE EXPERTS WERE SUPPOSED TO UNDERTAKE A PRECISE ANALYSIS OF THE BEST MEANS OF MEETING WORLD ENERGY NEEDS WHILE AVOIDING THE DANGER OF A PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS. TO THAT END, THEY HAD THE TASK OF UNDERTAKING A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PERMIT US TO UNDERSTAND OUR RESPECTIVE ANALYSES, AND TO ASSESS THE UTILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE FUEL CYCLE. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS DEVELOPED DID NOT PERMIT THEM TO PROCEED IN THAT ANALYSIS.

"IN THAT SITUATION, IT SEEMS TO ME NECESSARY THAT THE EXPERTS MEET AGAIN WITH THE PURPOSE OF UNDERTAKING THE PRELIMINARY STUDY THAT WE COMMISSIONED.

"AT THE SAME TIME, IT SEEMS TO ME NECESSARY THAT -- DURING THAT STUDY AS WELL AS DURING THE INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION IF WE AGREE TO UNDERTAKE IT -- NO MEASURE COMPROMISE THE LEGITIMATE NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

"I ASSURE YOU ON THIS OCCASION OF MY VERY BEST REGARDS,

"(SIGNED) VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING"

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 147101

GISCARD, DATED JUNE 23:

"DEAR VALERY:

"I WAS HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 14 AND YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF FOLLOW-UP WORK ON NON-PROLIFERATION TO OUR ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING OF MAY. I REGRET THAT YOU FEEL THERE WAS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING WHAT OUR GROUP OF EXPERTS WERE TO ACCOMPLISH. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE VERY HAPPY TO MEET MULTILATERALLY WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AS SUGGESTED BY YOUR LETTER THAT WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION WHICH WAS PREPARED BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS IN THEIR FIRST MEETING.

"AS I SAID IN OUR MAY MEETINGS, THE WORK OF THIS EVALUATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING OUR COMMON NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES AND THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE PREPARED BY OUR EXPERTS ARE A USEFUL BASIS FOR CONDUCTING THIS EVALUATION. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THIS SECOND MEETING WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR YOUR

PARTICIPATION AND EARLY INITIATION OF THE PROGRAMS  
ENVISAGED IN THIS INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION EFFORT.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH DELEGATION HAS EXPRESSED  
CONCERN OVER CERTAIN U.S. POLICIES, AND THEIR RELATION-  
SHIP TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM.  
THE U.S. DOES NOT WISH TO IMPOSE ITS POLICIES ON THE  
DOMESTIC PROGRAMS OF OTHERS WHO DO NOT SHARE OUR VIEW.  
NOR DO WE INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PREJUDGE  
THE OUTCOME OF THE EVALUATION. THEREFORE, SOME ACCOMMO-  
DATION IS POSSIBLE TO MEET YOUR CONCERNS. AMBASSADOR  
GERARD SMITH WILL SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH  
APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN IN MORE  
DETAIL MY VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITIES AND TO LEARN OF YOUR  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 147101

SPECIFIC CONCERN ABOUT THE FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS. WE  
WOULD PREFER TO HOLD SUCH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BEFORE  
PROCEEDING WITH ANOTHER MULTILATERAL MEETING AMONG THE  
SEVEN.

"WITH REGARD TO THE UPCOMING SUPPLIER DISCUSSIONS IN  
LONDON, I WOULD URGE THAT YOU CONSIDER ADOPTING A POLICY  
ON COMPREHENSIVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS SIMILAR TO THE POLICY I  
HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT FOR THE U.S. THIS WOULD NOT  
NECESSARILY REQUIRE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT SUCH AS  
NPT ADHERENCE, AND WOULD REPRESENT MINIMAL INFRINGEMENT  
ON THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF RECIPIENT NATIONS. PARALLEL  
U.S. AND FRENCH POLICIES WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR STEP IN  
MOVING THE WORLD COMMUNITY TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THIS  
PRINCIPLE.

"I AM PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE  
HAD WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THIS REGARD,  
WHICH NOW APPEARS WILLING TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY OF  
ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS. I AM CONVINCED THAT A UNIFIED  
SUPPLIER POSITION ON THIS ISSUE ALONG WITH CAREFUL  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDIA COULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY  
STIMULUS TO ACHIEVE AN OBJECTIVE WHICH A FEW MONTHS AGO  
WE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

"THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT ON THE  
SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND HOPEFULLY SERVE TO ALLAY  
THE FEARS OF PAKISTAN AND LESSEN THE INCENTIVE ON ITS  
PART TO SEEK A REPROCESSING PLANT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE  
VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DELAY  
DELIVERIES.

"I WOULD VALUE YOUR VIEWS ON THE APPROACH I HAVE OUTLINED,  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 147101

AND YOUR SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO AN APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE.

"SINCERELY,

"JIMMY CARTER" CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** FWISNER:BABS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRESIDENT CARTER  
**TAGS:** PREL, PFOR, TECH, TPHY, PPDC, US, FR, (CARTER, JIMMY), (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)  
**To:** PARIS  
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